

**From:** [Spalding, Susan](#)  
**To:** [Crossland, Ronnie](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Draft Responses for EJ Call on Tuesday  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 12, 2017 10:24:15 AM  
**Attachments:** [EJ call Q & A 9.11.17.docx](#)

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Sorry I didn't send this to you earlier....we went with this draft and no additional changes were made.

Susan Spalding, Associate Director  
Hazardous Waste Branch  
EPA Region 6  
(214) 665-8022

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**From:** Spalding, Susan  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2017 5:43 PM  
**To:** Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>; David Gray <Gray.David@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Runnels, Charlotte <Runnels.Charlotte@epa.gov>; Burrell, Omari <Burrell.Omari@epa.gov>; Gee, Randy <Gee.Randy@epa.gov>; Vaughn, Gloria <Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov>; Flores-Gregg, Paula <flores.paula@epa.gov>; Coats, Janetta <coats.janetta@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Draft Responses for EJ Call on Tuesday

Arturo/Randy and Team – attached are revised responses for the call tomorrow. This is still a draft and David needs an opportunity to review. Charlotte is also working with Arturo on the third bullet. Note the additional 3<sup>rd</sup> page with a summary of email contacts and web addresses.

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**From:** Blanco, Arturo  
**Sent:** Friday, September 08, 2017 3:40 PM  
**To:** Taheri, Diane <[Taheri.Diane@epa.gov](mailto:Taheri.Diane@epa.gov)>; Spalding, Susan <[Spalding.Susan@epa.gov](mailto:Spalding.Susan@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Runnels, Charlotte <[Runnels.Charlotte@epa.gov](mailto:Runnels.Charlotte@epa.gov)>; Burrell, Omari <[Burrell.Omari@epa.gov](mailto:Burrell.Omari@epa.gov)>; Gee, Randy <[Gee.Randy@epa.gov](mailto:Gee.Randy@epa.gov)>; Vaughn, Gloria <[Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov](mailto:Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov)>; Flores-Gregg, Paula <[flores.paula@epa.gov](mailto:flores.paula@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please review EJ suggested responses - thanks

Diane and Susan,

The following is what we are preparing to report on the EJ network call on Tuesday. The statements not in bold are the issues raised - the statements in bold and italics are our responses. Please review and feel free to suggest edits/etc. I will also appreciate your suggested response to question in red below.

Your feedback by Monday will be appreciated. **Please reply all** – Randy will guide the finalization of the responses (I'll be in Houston and Port Arthur).

## Requests

- Make sampling equipment available for citizens to use. For example, buckets for air sampling. *The Houston Health Department has arrangements with Air Alliance Houston to provide citizens air monitoring assistance. Contact the Houston Health Department for additional information.*
- Reach colonias north of Houston, tri-county area (Harris, Montgomery, Liberty) to ensure they are safe. *During the EJ call last week, General Honore offered to help. Referred Lionel's contact information to General Honore – Specific colonias concerns mentioned is Los Trenos, South of Houston in Liberty County.*
- Inform what air monitors are operating and where in the general Houston area? *Called Air Alliance Houston to encourage complaints/concerns be reported to TCEQ or to call us back with more information to best discern the kind of assistance needed, such as including specific sites or facilities with air quality issues and what the issues are. When we receive more information we will contact TCEQ.*
- Place fulltime EJ staff/boots on the ground to work closely with community residents; residents feel intimidated by industry officials as residents seek to know how their safety needs are being met because of environmental discharges in the environment close to homes. *EPA R6 has deployed over 20 EPA staff to the Harvey affected counties in Texas, including two EJ staff in Harris County and Beaumont/Port Arthur.*
- Inform on how to best reach TCEQ for timely feedback, including TCEQ efforts in re-establishing air monitoring to cover more areas where air emissions/safety are serious concerns. *EPA reached out to TCEQ. We will provide that information when we receive it. The online toll free number is 888-777-3186. TCEQ regions can also be directly reached at: Houston, 713-767-3500; Beaumont, 409-898-3838; Corpus Christi, 361-825-3100. EPA Region 6 will also coordinate with TCEQ on complaints/concerns received by EPA Region 6.*
- Report monitoring data results to community in timely manner including air and water sampling data. How is EPA and others getting these results to communities? **WHAT SHOULD BE THE RESPONSE?**
- Assessment and contamination reports from Louisiana regulatory agencies regarding western areas of Louisiana affected by flooding. *EPA provided this information to LDEQ. We are awaiting a response.*
- Communication strategy involving regular meetings with EJ stakeholders providing updates that people can understand. *EPA has established the Weekly EJ Network Calls to listen and provide updates on what EPA in response to concerns. Also, EPA community liaisons are now stationed in counties throughout the Corpus*

***Christi/Houston/Beaumont-Port Arthur branches of our Emergency Operations Center, working closely with local officials and community groups to improve communication.***

- Provide timely information by all local and federal agencies; residents don't clearly know who and where to go for help. ***EPA community liaisons are now stationed in counties throughout the Corpus Christi/Houston/Beaumont-Port Arthur branches of our Emergency Operations Center, working closely with local officials and community groups to improve communication.***

Arturo J. Blanco, OEJTIA Director

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